

# LAKES WEEKLY

BULLETIN

FIRST ON THE STREET

No 538  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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JOBS  
INSIDE

As CEO for Queenstown Trails Trust I am privileged and proud to be able to share our extensive network of trails with visitors to our region and those of us fortunate to live in the Wakatipu. Visitors and locals alike appreciate the world-class quality and variety of our trails set against the stunning backdrop that surrounds them – from the vines at Gibbston to the Remarkables and Lake Wakatipu. The work we have ahead of us as a Trust is exciting and challenging and we sincerely appreciate the support we receive from our community throughout the district. It's only with this on-going support that we can achieve the goals set out in the Trust's 10-year strategic plan entitled 'Queenstown trails for the future' and one of our biggest fundraisers is the annual Macpac Motatapu Off Road Sporting Event. For twelve years now this iconic event affords those of us who are willing to tackle it, a unique opportunity to access the stunning high country terrain from Glendhu Bay in Wanaka to Arrowtown which is open for only one day each year for the Motatapu event. In addition, funds from the Motatapu are used by the Queenstown Trails Trust to maintain and develop the 120km of world-class walking and cycling trails that connect the communities of Queenstown, Arrowtown, Gibbston and Jack's Point.

Future funds from the event are earmarked for further trail enhancement and development. The event course is a slice of paradise –covering the Soho, Motatapu and Glencoe Stations. Russell Hamilton and his team at Soho Properties do a fantastic job conserving the pristine surrounds for future generations and we are forever grateful to them for sharing their home with us and the 4,000 odd competitors who will take to the course on March 5th. Events like the Motatapu serve such an important role in our region – driving visitors to town, bringing the community together and raising funds for the trails. Achieving iconic status in the world of adventure racing isn't easy, yet "The Motatapu" as it's fondly known by competitors, vollies, supporters and locals has forged a soft spot in many people's hearts. Just once a year for the race, weekend warriors and professional athletes bike, run, walk, hike and swim their way across this spectacular terrain. What for? Personal glory, the bragging rights, just because or because why not? Whatever the reason, year-in-year-out people flock to Glendhu Bay, Wanaka to compete against friends, family members, other competitors and of course themselves – with many returning to beat personal bests.

In addition, over 150 'vollies' step-up to be a part of something bigger than them, rising early, staying late and camping overnight to ensure the race goes to plan and ALL competitors finish feeling accomplished. In my mind there is no other event that pulls together all these elements –visitors, professional athletes, weekend warriors, supporters and vollies to showcase our community like the Motatapu. Lagardère Oceania Unlimited –as our professional sports event organisers do a fantastic job putting on a great event, yet each year it is the competitors, finish line support crew and vollies that make the race what it has become today. So come on Queenstown, step-out and support this iconic race, whether it's a friendly whoop, cheer and a smile at the finish line or you can spare more time to become involved as a volunteer. It's you that makes this event so special.

If you'd like to help and volunteer your time to make the event run smoothly, contact Nicole Fairweather on 021 106 0942 or email [nfairweather@lagardere-unlimited.co.nz](mailto:nfairweather@lagardere-unlimited.co.nz)

Mandy Kennedy, CEO Queenstown Trails Trust



Owners Gus Sepulveda (left), Rosana Jadue (middle) and Lucas Fornes (right) with chefs Andres Rojas and Cindy Gonzalez on El Gaucho Grill opening night.

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JOHN RAVENS WEATHER  
Last week John was 99% correct

|                                 |                           |                                 |                          |                             |                           |                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| TUES                            | WED                       | THUR                            | FRI                      | SAT                         | SUN                       | MON               |
|                                 |                           |                                 |                          |                             |                           |                   |
| Morning Cloud<br>Otherwise Fine | High Cloud<br>Increasing. | Rain Developing.<br>Northerlies | Rain.<br>Northwesterlies | Showers.<br>Northwesterlies | Showers. Not<br>Much Wind | Fine. Little Wind |

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